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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Disclosure and discovery activity in this action are likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than

prosecuting this litigation may be warranted. Such information consists of, among other things, personal consumer information, confidential business or financial information, information regarding confidential business practices, or other commercially sensitive information that is otherwise generally unavailable to the public, or which may be privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure under state or federal statutes, court rules, case decisions, or common law. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and that the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles. The parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section 12.3, below, that this Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them to file confidential information under seal; Civil Local Rule 141 sets forth the procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation of information or items under this Order.

2.2 “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items: information (regardless of how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for protection under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c).

2.3 Counsel (without qualifier): Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as their support staff).

2.4 Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

1 2.5 Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless
2 of the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained
3 (including, among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that
4 are produced or generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in this matter.

5 2.6 Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a
6 matter pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to
7 serve as an expert witness or as a consultant in this action.

8 2.7 House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this
9 action. House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other
10 outside counsel.

11 2.8 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association,
12 or other legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

13 2.9 Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a
14 party to this action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this action and
15 have appeared in this action on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law firm
16 which has appeared on behalf of that party.

17 2.10 Party: any party to this action, including all of its officers, directors,
18 employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and
19 their support staffs).

20 2.11 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or
21 Discovery Material in this action.

22 2.12 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation
23 support services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits
24 or demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or
25 medium) and their employees and subcontractors.

26 2.13 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is
27 designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

1 2.14 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery
2 Material from a Producing Party.

3. SCOPE

4 The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only
5 Protected Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or
6 extracted from Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or
7 compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or
8 presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.
9 However, the protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order do not cover the
10 following information: (a) any information that is in the public domain at the time
11 of disclosure to a Receiving Party or becomes part of the public domain after its
12 disclosure to a Receiving Party as a result of publication not involving a violation
13 of this Order, including becoming part of the public record through trial or
14 otherwise; and (b) any information known to the Receiving Party prior to the
15 disclosure or obtained by the Receiving Party after the disclosure from a source
16 who obtained the information lawfully and under no obligation of confidentiality
17 to the Designating Party. Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed
18 by a separate agreement or order.

19. DURATION

20 Even after final disposition of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations
21 imposed by this Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees
22 otherwise in writing or a court order otherwise directs. Final disposition shall be
23 deemed to be the later of (1) dismissal of all claims and defenses in this action,
24 with or without prejudice; and (2) final judgment herein after the completion and
25 exhaustion of all appeals, rehearings, remands, trials, or reviews of this action,
26 including the time limits for filing any motions or applications for extension of
27 time pursuant to applicable law.

1 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

2 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for
3 Protection. Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for
4 protection under this Order must take care to limit any such designation to specific
5 material that qualifies under the appropriate standards. The Designating Party
6 must designate for protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or
7 oral or written communications that qualify – so that other portions of the
8 material, documents, items, or communications for which protection is not
9 warranted are not swept unjustifiably within the ambit of this Order.

10 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited.

11 Designations that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for
12 an improper purpose (*e.g.*, to unnecessarily encumber or retard the case
13 development process or to impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other
14 parties) expose the Designating Party to sanctions.

15 If it comes to a Designating Party’s attention that information or items that
16 it designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party
17 must promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the mistaken
18 designation.

19 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in
20 this Order (see, *e.g.*, second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise
21 stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for
22 protection under this Order must be clearly so designated before the material is
23 disclosed or produced.

24 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

25 (a) For information in documentary form (*e.g.*, paper or electronic
26 documents, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial
27 proceedings), that the Producing Party affix the legend “CONFIDENTIAL” to

1 each page that contains protected material. If only a portion or portions of the
2 material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly
3 identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the
4 margins).

5 A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents or materials available
6 for inspection need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting
7 Party has indicated which material it would like copied and produced. During the
8 inspection and before the designation, all of the material made available for
9 inspection shall be deemed “CONFIDENTIAL.” After the inspecting Party has
10 identified the documents it wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must
11 determine which documents, or portions thereof, qualify for protection under this
12 Order. Then, before producing the specified documents, the Producing Party must
13 affix the “CONFIDENTIAL” legend to each page that contains Protected
14 Material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for
15 protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s)
16 (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

17 (b) for testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial or trial proceedings,
18 that the Designating Party identify on the record, before the close of the
19 deposition, hearing, or other proceeding, all protected testimony.

20 (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and for
21 any other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on
22 the exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is
23 stored the legend “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions of the
24 information or item warrant protection, the Producing Party, to the extent
25 practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

26 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent
27 failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive

1 the Designating Party's right to secure protection under this Order for such
2 material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make
3 reasonable efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the
4 provisions of this Order.

5 **6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS**

6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a
7 designation of confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a
8 Designating Party's confidentiality designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable,
9 substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic burdens, or a significant disruption
10 or delay of the litigation, a Party does not waive its right to challenge a
11 confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the
12 original designation is disclosed.

6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute
resolution process by providing written notice of each designation it is challenging
and describing the basis for each challenge. To avoid ambiguity as to whether a
challenge has been made, the written notice must recite that the challenge to
confidentiality is being made in accordance with this specific paragraph of the
Protective Order. The parties shall attempt to resolve each challenge in good faith
and must begin the process by conferring directly (in voice to voice dialogue;
other forms of communication are not sufficient) within 14 days of the date of
service of notice. In conferring, the Challenging Party must explain the basis for
its belief that the confidentiality designation was not proper and must give the
Designating Party an opportunity to review the designated material, to reconsider
the circumstances, and, if no change in designation is offered, to explain the basis
for the chosen designation. A Challenging Party may proceed to the next stage of
the challenge process only if it has engaged in this meet and confer process first or

1 establishes that the Designating Party is unwilling to participate in the meet and
2 confer process in a timely manner.

3 6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the Parties cannot resolve a challenge
4 without court intervention, the Designating Party shall file and serve a motion to
5 retain confidentiality under Civil Local Rule 230 (and in compliance with Civil
6 Local Rule 141, if applicable) within 21 days of the initial notice of challenge or
7 within 14 days of the parties agreeing that the meet and confer process will not
8 resolve their dispute, whichever is earlier. Each such motion must be accompanied
9 by a competent declaration affirming that the movant has complied with the meet
10 and confer requirements imposed in the preceding paragraph. Failure by the
11 Designating Party to make such a motion including the required declaration within
12 21 days (or 14 days, if applicable) shall automatically waive the confidentiality
13 designation for each challenged designation. In addition, the Challenging Party
14 may file a motion challenging a confidentiality designation at any time if there is
15 good cause for doing so, including a challenge to the designation of a deposition
16 transcript or any portions thereof. Any motion brought pursuant to this provision
17 must be accompanied by a competent declaration affirming that the movant has
18 complied with the meet and confer requirements imposed by the preceding
19 paragraph.

20 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on the
21 Designating Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose
22 (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may
23 expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating Party has
24 waived the confidentiality designation by failing to file a motion to retain
25 confidentiality as described above, all parties shall continue to afford the material
26 in question the level of protection to which it is entitled under the Producing
27 Party's designation until the court rules on the challenge.

1 7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

2 7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that
3 is disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with
4 this case only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this litigation.
5 Such Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and
6 under the conditions described in this Order. When the litigation has been
7 terminated, a Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of section 13
8 below (FINAL DISPOSITION).

9 Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a
10 location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons
11 authorized under this Order.

12 7.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless
13 otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a
14 Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated
15 “CONFIDENTIAL” only to:

16 (a) the Receiving Party’s Outside Counsel of Record in this action, as well
17 as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably
18 necessary to disclose the information for this litigation and who have signed the
19 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit
20 A;

21 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of the
22 Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and
23 who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit
24 A);

25 (c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom
26 disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the
27 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

1 (d) the court and its personnel;

2 (e) court reporters and their staff, professional jury or trial consultants,
3 mock jurors, and Professional Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably
4 necessary for this litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and
5 Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

6 (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is
7 reasonably necessary and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement
8 to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the Designating Party or
9 ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to
10 depositions that reveal Protected Material must be separately bound by the court
11 reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this
12 Stipulated Protective Order.

13 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a
14 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

15 **8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED**
16 **IN OTHER LITIGATION**

17 If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other
18 litigation that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this
19 action as “CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party must:

20 (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification shall
21 include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

22 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order
23 to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the
24 subpoena or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification shall
25 include a copy of this Stipulated Protective Order; and

26 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued
27 by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with the subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL” before a determination by the court from which the subpoena or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party’s permission. The Designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in that court of its confidential material – and nothing in these provisions should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this action to disobey a lawful directive from another court.

9. A NON-PARTY’S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE PRODUCED IN THIS LITIGATION

(a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a Non-Party in this action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Such information produced by Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

(b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to produce a Non-Party’s confidential information in its possession, and the Party is subject to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party’s confidential information, then the Party shall:

(1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality agreement with a Non-Party;

(2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated Protective Order in this litigation, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably specific description of the information requested; and

(3) make the information requested available for inspection by the Non-Party.

1 (c) If the Non-Party fails to object or seek a protective order from this court
2 within 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the
3 Receiving Party may produce the Non-Party's confidential information responsive
4 to the discovery request. If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the
5 Receiving Party shall not produce any information in its possession or control that
6 is subject to the confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a
7 determination by the court. Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party
8 shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in this court of its
9 Protected Material.

10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

11 If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has
12 disclosed Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized
13 under this Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a)
14 notify in writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its
15 best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c)
16 inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all
17 the terms of this Order, and (d) request such person or persons to execute the
18 "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit
19 A.

20. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE
21 PROTECTED MATERIAL

22 When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain
23 inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other
24 protection, the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal
25 Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify
26 whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for
27 production without prior privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence

1 502(d) and (e), insofar as the parties reach an agreement on the effect of
2 disclosure of a communication or information covered by the attorney-client
3 privilege or work product protection, the parties may incorporate their agreement
4 in the stipulated protective order submitted to the court.

5 12. MISCELLANEOUS

6 12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of
7 any person to seek its modification by the court in the future.

8 12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this
9 Protective Order no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to
10 disclosing or producing any information or item on any ground not addressed in
11 this Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on
12 any ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective
13 Order.

14 12.3 Filing Protected Material. Without written permission from the
15 Designating Party or a court order secured after appropriate notice to all interested
16 persons, a Party may not file in the public record in this action any Protected
17 Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any Protected Material must comply
18 with Civil Local Rule 141. Protected Material may only be filed under seal
19 pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the specific Protected Material
20 at issue. Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 141, a sealing order will issue only upon a
21 request establishing that the Protected Material at issue is privileged, protectable
22 as a trade secret, or otherwise entitled to protection under the law. If a Receiving
23 Party's request to file Protected Material under seal pursuant to Civil Local Rule
24 141 is denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file the information in
25 the public record pursuant to Civil Local Rule 141 unless otherwise instructed by
26 the court.

13. FINAL DISPOSITION

Within 60 days after the final disposition of this action, as defined in paragraph 4, each Receiving Party must return all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material. As used in this subdivision, “all Protected Material” includes all copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the Receiving Party must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same person or entity, to the Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that (1) identifies (by category, where appropriate) all the Protected Material that was returned or destroyed and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such materials contain Protected Material. Any such archival copies that contain or constitute Protected Material remain subject to this Protective Order as set forth in Section 4 (DURATION).

IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

Dated: March 17, 2025

/s/Ely Grinvald
Ely Grinvald
Attorney for Plaintiff
John Castillo, Jr.

1 Dated: March 17, 2025

SESSIONS, ISRAEL & SHARTLE, L.L.P.

2 /s/ Kenneth A. Ohashi

3 Kenneth A. Ohashi

4 Attorney for Defendant

Transworld Systems Inc.

5

6 **SIGNATURE ATTESTATION**

7 Pursuant to Local Rule 5-4.3.4(a)(2)(i), I hereby attest that plaintiff's
8 counsel, Ely Grinvald, concurs in the filing's content and has authorized his
9 signature and filing.

10 Dated: March 17, 2025

SESSIONS, ISRAEL & SHARTLE, L.L.P.

11 /s/ Kenneth A. Ohashi

12 Kenneth Ohashi

13 Attorney for Transworld Systems Inc.

14 **ORDER**

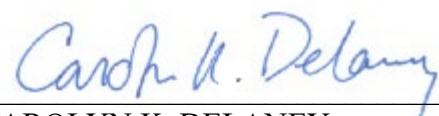
15 The Court has reviewed the parties' stipulated protective order. (ECF No.
16.) The stipulation comports with the relevant authorities and the court's
17 applicable local rule. See L.R. 141.1. The Court APPROVES the protective order,
18 subject to the following clarifications. The Court's Local Rules indicate that once
19 an action is closed, it "will not retain jurisdiction over enforcement of the terms of
20 any protective order filed in that action." L.R. 141.1(f); *see also, e.g., MD*
21 Helicopters, Inc. v. Aerometals, Inc., 2017 WL 495778 (E.D. Cal., Feb. 03, 2017)
22 (noting that courts in the district generally do not retain jurisdiction for disputes
23 concerning protective orders after closure of the case). Thus, the Court will not
24 retain jurisdiction over this protective order once the case is closed.

25 Further, this Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle a party to file
26 confidential information under seal. Local Rule 141 sets forth the procedures that
27 must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks

1 permission from the Court to file material under seal. If a party's request to file
2 confidential material under seal is denied by the Court, then the party may file the
3 information in the public record unless otherwise instructed by the Court.

4 Finally, the protective order appears to contain references to local rules
5 from other districts. *See* Stip. Prot. Order at 15 (Signature Attestation section
6 referencing Local Rule 5-4.3.4(a)(2)(i), which does not exist in the Eastern
7 District). To the extent the parties' protective order references local rules of other
8 districts, the Court rejects these references and reminds the parties to refer to the
9 local rules of the Eastern District of California.

10 Dated: March 18, 2025



11 CAROLYN K. DELANEY
12 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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15 5, cast.1498.24

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EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [print or type full name], of _____
[print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury that I have read in its
entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the United
States District Court for the Eastern District of California on [date] in the case of ***John***
Castillo, Jr. v. Transworld Systems Inc., Case No. 2:24-cv-01498-TLN-CKD. I agree to
comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I
understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and
punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any
manner any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any
person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

I hereby appoint _____ [print or type full name] of
_____ [print or type full address and
telephone number] as my California agent for service of process in connection with this
action or any proceedings related to enforcement of this Stipulated Protective Order.

Date:

City and State where sworn and signed:

Printed name:

Signature: